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 TI Pyrophosphorolysis by Type II DNA polymerases: implications for
 pyrophosphorolysis-activated polymerization.
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 AB We find that Type II DNA polymerases can catalyze pyrophosphorolysis, the
 reverse reaction of DNA polymerization. This property is applied
 utilizing pyrophosphorolysis-activated polymerization (PAP), a method of
 nucleic acid amplification using serial coupling of pyrophosphorolysis and
 polymerization. PAP can be used for ultrarare allele detection (detection
 of minimal residual disease and cancer risk assessment through measurement
 of mutation load) and for microarray-based scanning for unknown mutations.
 Herein, we show that Type II DNA polymerases efficiently catalyze
 template-dependent pyrophosphorolysis to activate oligonucleotides blocked
 at their 3' termini with acyclonucleotides in which a
 2-hydroxyethoxymethyl group substitutes for the 2'-deoxyribofuranosyl
 sugar. Type II archeon DNA polymerases Vent (exo-) and Pfu
 (exo-) can be utilized for PAP or a bidirectional form of PAP with
 acyclonucleotide-blocked oligonucleotides, but not with
 dideoxynucleotide-blocked oligonucleotides. In contrast, a Type I DNA
 polymerase, TaqFS, can utilize either acyclonucleotide-blocked or
 dideoxynucleotide-blocked oligonucleotides. These findings expand the
 potential of nascent PAP technology.